

Claims

1. Use of one or more non-digestible polysaccharides selected from the group consisting of dextrans having a molecular weight of 8 kD to 40,000 kD, hydrolysed (gluco)mannans having a molecular weight of 0.5 kD to 1,000 kD and hydrolysed (galacto)mannans having a molecular weight of 0.5 kD to 1,000 kD for the preparation of a nutritional composition to reduce the uptake of high molecular weight substances, allergens and microorganisms through the intestinal wall, with the proviso that the rise in the viscosity of the nutritional composition caused by the polysaccharides is less than 20 mPa.s.
2. Use according to Claim 1, wherein the polysaccharides are selected from dextrans having a molecular weight of 20 kD to 2000 kD.
3. Use according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the polysaccharides are contained in the composition in an amount such that the concentration of these polysaccharides in the intestine is 0.1 to 20 g/l, preferably 0.5 to 10 g/l and preferentially 1 to 6 g/l.
4. Use according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the nutritional composition is in the form of a complete food.
5. Use according to one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein the nutritional composition is in the form of a food supplement.
6. Use according to one of the preceding claims to reduce transport of high molecular weight substances, allergens and microorganisms through the tight junctions in the intestines.
7. Use according to one of the preceding claims, to prevent or to treat allergy, allergic reactions, sepsis and inflammatory processes, such as can arise under emotional and physical stress, ischaemia, reperfusion damage during and after operations, after radiation treatment and/or chemotherapy of cancer patients and in the case of inflammatory diseases

WO 01/33975

PCT/NL00/00697

11

Sub A of the intestine, diarrhoea and allergies.

8. Nutritional composition which contains dextrans having a molecular weight of 8 kD to 40,000 kD, with the proviso that the rise in the viscosity of the nutritional composition
5 caused by the dextrans is less than 20 mPa.s.